

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed January 30, 2004. In the Office Action, claims 1, 27, 89 and 100 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 12 of U.S. Patent No. 6,466,976. Moreover, claims 2-35, 40-41, 90-05 and 101-102 were objected to as being based on a rejected base claim, but include allowable subject matter.

Claims 2 and 4 have been placed into independent form to include certain limitations of base claim 1. Moreover, claims 1 and 89 have been amended to remove unnecessary amendments and claim 3 has been amended to include a limitation.

Double Patenting

Claims 1, 27, 89 and 100 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 12 of U.S. Patent No. 6,466,976. Applicant has submitted herewith a terminal disclaimer to obviate the obviousness-type double patenting rejection associated with claims 1, 27, 89 and 100. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Claims 2 and 4 have been placed into independent form to include certain limitations of base claim 1. Based on the submission of the terminal disclaimer noted above, all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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